it been possible, they would have stood aside from the conflict until the end. The unwavering stupidity of Imperial German statesmanship since the dismissal of Bismarck can have no more illuminating testimonial than this, that it brought a reluctant America into the war against her in the third year of the fight, as it had brought a reluctant Britain into action against her at the very commencement.

Tribute to stupidity

From the moment when Germany declared her unrestricted submarine warfare, America's entry was a foregone conclusion. That she waited two months before she would admit this fact must be attributed to the attitude of her President. The delay did not avert the issue. It only made it two months later before she began to prepare herself for the defence of her interests or the support of her associates in the struggle. And this was at a time when days were of vital importance ; when it was becoming a matter of touch and go whether the cause which America was driven to espouse might not be finally defeated before she could put into the field an effective contingent for its defence. Had those two months been utilised for preparation, the American Army would have been adequately represented in the trenches in France at the end of March, 1918, and the Ludendorff coup would have failed at the outset.

Two months' delay in preparing to fight

When at last President Wilson made his declaration

to Congress on 2nd April, 1917, he showed no uncertainty as to the issues. In the course of his speech he said :—

> "We are accepting this challenge of hostile purpose because we know that in such a government,